GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2685
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
INTERESTS OF SMALL FARMERS
Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage labour intensive and value added agriculture keeping in view the interests of the small farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to encourage sericulture, cultivation of pepper and organic farming; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government has taken to provide facility and encourage the farmers of Uttar Pradesh to undertake this type of farming?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The National Agriculture Policy (NAP), July 2000, has laid emphasis on creation of employment in rural areas. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has also taken into account the employement potential in Indian agriculture, and accordingly proposed higher outlays in agriculture. India has continued with the policy of input subsidies in view of the overwhelming proportion of small farmers in the country.

(b) & (c): The Government has sanctioned a Scheme - National Project on Organic Farming with an outlay of Rs.57.05 crore for production, promotion, certification and market development of Organic Farming in all States of the country including Uttar Pradesh for the remaining period of 10th Five Year Plan. The main objectives under the Scheme are:

(1) Putting in place a system of certification of Organic produce.

(2) Capacity building through service providers.

(3) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like:

(a) Fruits and vegetables waste compost.
(b) Bio-fertilizer production; and
(c) Hatcheries for vermiculture.

(4) Promotion and extension of Organic Farming

As regards pepper, assistance for cultivation of pepper is being provided under the Macro Management Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture.